

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Advisory Action dated July 24, 2009. By way of summary, Claims 66-68 and 70-87 are pending in this application after entry of this Amendment. Claims 66, 84, and 85 are the independent claims. Claims 66, 70, 71, 82, 84, and 85 are amended herein based on the December 5, 2008 claim amendments, as the July 14, 2009 claim amendment was not entered. New Claims 86 and 87 are added herein. No new matter is believed to have been introduced to the application by this Amendment. Support for the amendments and new claims can be found in the original disclosure, including, for example, original paragraphs [46] and [47]. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 66, 70, 80, 82, 84, and 85 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,244,957 (“Walker”). Claims 67, 68, 72-74, 77-79, and 81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0080915 (“Shoemaker”). Claims 71 and 76 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,854,009 (“Hughes”). Claim 75 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,876,644 (“Hsu”). Claim 83 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Walker in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,089,508 (“Wright”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

All of the independent claims, namely Claims 66, 84, and 85, feature locking a communications session upon an occurrence of a predetermined event, wherein the predetermined event comprises a detection of a departure of the user without manual input from

the user. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the applied references discloses or teaches at least this feature of the amended independent claims.

As stated in the Advisory Action, “[t]he slot server 4 [of Walker] has no means for determining when to lock the automated play session. That information is provided by the player.” (emphasis added). Walker does not disclose or teach locking a communications session upon an occurrence of a predetermined event that comprises a detection of a departure of the user without manual input from the user.

The remaining references are not seen to remedy the deficiencies of Walker. Specifically, the remaining references are not seen to disclose or teach locking a communications session upon an occurrence of a predetermined event that comprises a detection of a departure of the user without manual input from the user.

The other pending claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

The absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be other reasons for patentability of any or all claims that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment or cancellation of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment or cancellation.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience. Applicants' undersigned attorney may be contacted at the address and telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP


Soyeon (Karen) Pak Laub
Registration No. 39,266

18191 Von Karman Ave., Suite 500
Irvine, CA 92612-7108
Phone: 949.851.0633 AAS:kcc
Facsimile: 949.851.9348
Date: August 4, 2009
ORC 465458-3.049051.0221

**Please recognize our Customer No. 31824
as our correspondence address.**